



Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

Mason County, MI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

Mason County was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Mason County (population 28,274) is a rural harbor community on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. Historically a port community serving the shipping industry, Mason County evolved into an industrial manufacturing region. As manufacturing declined, jobs disappeared and the county tax base eroded. Over the last three years, the county has lost approximately 420 full-time jobs. Its 12 percent unemployment rate is the highest in Michigan. Many of the county's prime lakefront properties are dotted with old and abandoned industrial sites and blighted buildings. The environmental assessment of these lakefront properties will help the county identify sources of



Assessment Grant

New
2004

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected Mason County for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to identify and inventory brownfields properties, perform Phase I and Phase II site assessments, and conduct community outreach. The county expects to generate an inventory of approximately 50 properties, primarily along the waterfront.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Mason County, MI
231-845-6646

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, the activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

contamination to Lake Michigan, attract new development to lakefront communities, create new jobs, and re-establish a needed tax base.